



Fact Sheet:



Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

Driving under the influence is a serious problem involving not only the impaired driver, but all others who share the roadway.

1996 National DUI Statistics

People (Drivers, Passengers, Pedestrians)

- 41,907 people were killed in traffic crashes. 17,126 of these fatalities were a result of alcohol; this represents an average of one alcohol-related fatality every 31 minutes.
- About 321,000 persons suffered injuries in alcohol-related crashes. This is an average of one person every 2 minutes.
- In 1996, 32 percent of pedestrians (16 years and older) killed in crashes had blood alcohol concentration levels at .10 percent or more.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the greatest single cause of death for every age between the ages of 6 and 27. Almost half of these fatalities are a result of alcohol.

Drivers

- 11,612 drivers were fatally injured in single-vehicle crashes. About 45.9 percent were intoxicated.

- More than 1.4 million drivers were arrested for DUI. This is an arrest rate of 1 for every 123 licensed drivers in the United States.
- In 1996, 32 percent of all drivers involved in fatal crashes had estimated blood alcohol concentration levels of .10 percent or higher.

Crashes

- The proportion of fatal crashes that are alcohol-related is about three times greater at night than during the day.
- About 3 in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol related crash at some time in their lives.
- Crashes involving men are more likely to be alcohol-related than those involving women. Among male drivers involved in fatal crashes, 21.4 percent had blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels of .10 percent or more; the percentage for women was 11.1. Alcohol involvement is highest for men age 25-34.
- The probability of a crash begins to increase significantly at 0.05 percent BAC; for drivers with BACs above 0.15 percent on weekend nights, the likelihood of being killed in a single-vehicle crash is more than 380 times higher than it is for nondrinking drivers.

Youth

- 14.1 percent of 16-20 year old drivers involved in fatal crashes were intoxicated.
- Teenage drivers with blood alcohol concentrations between 0.05-0.10 percent are far more likely than sober teenage drivers to be killed in single-vehicle crashes—18 times more likely for males and 54 times more likely for females.

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)

- Even at blood alcohol concentration levels as low as .02 percent, alcohol affects driving ability and crash likelihood. The probability of crash begins to increase significantly at .05 percent BAC and climbs rapidly after about .08 percent BAC.
- Three percent of a national sample of drivers on weekend nights had BAC levels at or above .10 percent.

Trends

- Since 1986, the numbers of alcohol-related crashes and fatalities have been slowly decreasing.
- The proportion of drivers 16-20 years of age who were involved in fatal crashes and were intoxicated dropped from 23.7 percent in 1986 to 14.1 percent in 1996.

California Statistics1996

- Approximately 25 percent of all first time DUI offenders reoffend within five years.

- 22,471 Alcohol-Involved Injury Crashes
- 35,654 Alcohol-Involved Injuries
- 1,113 Alcohol-Involved Fatal Crashes
- 1,254 Alcohol-Involved Fatalities

Trends:

- Alcohol-involved traffic fatalities decreased 21 percent from 1993 to 1996. Although alcohol involvement in traffic accidents has declined over the past 10 years, 31.6 percent of all traffic fatalities were still alcohol involved.

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)

- The illegal blood alcohol concentration level in California is set at .08 percent. Although it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle with a BAC of .08 percent or higher, the typical arrestee registers more than double the legal limit at the time of arrest.

First Offender16 percent

Second Offender18 percent

Third Offender18 percent

Fourth Plus18 percent

Average17 percent

Administrative Drivers License Revocation

- In 1990, California implemented a mandatory drivers license suspension law for drinking drivers, also known as “admin per se.”
- 194,088 licenses were suspended as a result of “admin per se” in 1996. ■